

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

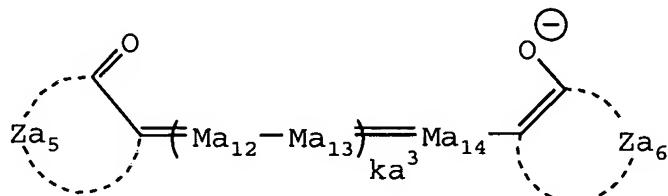
1.-15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A method for inducing a non-resonant two-photon absorption, which comprises irradiating a non-resonant two-photon absorbing material comprising an oxonol dye undergoing a non-resonant two-photon absorption with a laser ray having a wavelength longer than the linear absorption band of the dye and present in the range of 400 to 1,000 nm to induce a two-photon absorption.

17.-20. (canceled)

21. (new): The non-resonant two-photon absorbing material as described in claim 16, wherein the oxonol dye is represented by the following formula (3):

Formula (3):



wherein Za₅ and Za₆ each represents an atomic group for forming a 5- or 6-membered ring,

Ma₁₂ to Ma₁₄ each independently represents a methine group, which may have a substituent or may form a ring together with another methine group, ka³ represents an integer of 0 to 3, provided that when ka³ is 2 or more, multiple Ma₁₂s may be the same or different and multiple Ma₁₃s may be the same or different, CI represents an ion for neutralizing the electric charge, and y represents a number necessary for the neutralization of electric charge.